

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 97

Establishing the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2019

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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## RESOLUTION

Establishing the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

1       *Resolved,*

2   **SECTION 1. SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS.**

3       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
4 Senate a Select Committee on the Climate Crisis (in this  
5 resolution referred to as the “Select Committee”).

6       (b) COMPOSITION.—

7           (1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Select Committee shall  
8 be composed of 16 Senators, of whom—

9                   (A) 8 shall be appointed by the majority  
10 leader; and

11                   (B) 8 shall be appointed by the minority  
12 leader.

1                             (2) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The majority leader  
2 and the minority leader shall each designate 1 mem-  
3 ber of the Select Committee to serve as a Co-Chair-  
4 person of the Select Committee.

5                             (3) DEADLINE.—Not later than 14 days after  
6 the date of adoption of this resolution, the majority  
7 leader and minority leader shall each appoint all  
8 members and designate the Co-Chairpersons of the  
9 Select Committee.

10                           (4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall  
11 be appointed for the life of the Select Committee.

12                           (5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the membership  
13 of the Select Committee—

14                           (A) shall not affect its powers; and  
15                           (B) shall be filled not later than 14 days  
16                           after the date on which the vacancy occurs, in  
17                           the same manner as the original appointment  
18                           was made.

19                           (6) DEPARTURE OF MEMBER.—If a member of  
20 the Select Committee ceases to be a Member of the  
21 Senate, the member is no longer a member of the  
22 Select Committee and a vacancy shall exist.

23                           (c) FUNDING.—

1                             (1) IN GENERAL.—The expenses of the Select  
2                             Committee shall be paid from the Contingent Fund  
3                             of the Senate, in a total amount of—

4                                 (A) not more than \$1,500,000 for the pe-  
5                             riod beginning on the date of adoption of this  
6                             resolution and ending on September 30, 2019;  
7                             and

8                                 (B) not more than \$2,600,000 for the pe-  
9                             riod beginning on October 1, 2019 and ending  
10                             on September 30, 2020.

11                             (2) APPROVAL.—

12                                 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
13                              subparagraph (B), the expenses of the Select  
14                             Committee shall be paid upon vouchers ap-  
15                             proved by the Co-Chairpersons of the Select  
16                             Committee, in accordance with the rules and  
17                             regulations of the Senate.

18                                 (B) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers  
19                             shall not be required for—

20                                     (i) the disbursement of salaries of em-  
21                                     ployees paid at an annual rate;  
22                                     (ii) the payment of telecommuni-  
23                                     cations provided by the Office of the Ser-  
24                                     geant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

- 1                             (iii) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;
- 2                             (iv) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;
- 3                             (v) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;
- 4                             (vi) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or
- 5                             (vii) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

15                     (d) STAFFING.—

16                     (1) IN GENERAL.—The Co-Chairpersons of the Select Committee may jointly appoint and fix the compensation of employees of the Select Committee in accordance with the guidelines for employees of the Senate and following all applicable rules and employment requirements of the Senate (including those relating to employees of standing committees of the Senate).

24                     (2) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account

1 for “Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate  
2 such sums as may be necessary for agency contribu-  
3 tions related to the compensation of employees of  
4 the Select Committee.

5 (e) JURISDICTION; FUNCTIONS.—

6 (1) INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION.—The Select  
7 Committee shall have the authority to investigate  
8 and make findings regarding how inaction on the cli-  
9 mate crisis is harming the economic and national se-  
10 curity interests of the United States.

11 (2) MEETINGS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Select Committee  
13 shall—

14 (i) meet at the call of the Co-Chair-  
15 persons; and

16 (ii) hold its first meeting to plan the  
17 activities of the Select Committee not later  
18 than 30 days after the date of adoption of  
19 this resolution.

20 (B) AGENDA.—Not later than 48 hours be-  
21 fore any meeting of the Select Committee, the  
22 Co-Chairpersons shall provide an agenda to the  
23 members of the Select Committee.

24 (3) HEARINGS.—

1                             (A) IN GENERAL.—The Select Committee  
2       may, for the purpose of carrying out this sec-  
3       tion, hold such hearings, sit and act at such  
4       times and places, require attendance of wit-  
5       nesses and production of books, papers, and  
6       documents, take such testimony, receive such  
7       evidence, and administer such oaths as the Se-  
8       lect Committee considers advisable.

9                             (B) ALL HEARINGS PUBLIC.—The hearings  
10      of the Select Committee in connection with any  
11      aspect of its investigative functions shall be  
12      public hearings.

13                             (C) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RESPON-  
14      SIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—

15                             (i) ANNOUNCEMENT.—Not later than  
16      7 days before any hearing of the Select  
17      Committee, the Co-Chairpersons shall  
18      make a public announcement of the date,  
19      place, time, and subject matter of the  
20      hearing, unless the Co-Chairpersons deter-  
21      mine that there is good cause to hold the  
22      hearing at an earlier date.

23                             (ii) EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF WIT-  
24      NESSES.—Each Co-Chairperson shall be  
25      entitled to select an equal number of wit-

1                   nesses for each hearing held by the Select  
2                   Committee.

3                   (iii) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—A wit-  
4                   ness appearing before the Select Com-  
5                   mittee shall file a written statement of pro-  
6                   posed testimony at least 2 days before the  
7                   appearance of the witness, unless the re-  
8                   quirement is waived by the Co-Chair-  
9                   persons, following a joint determination  
10                  that there is good cause for failure to com-  
11                  ply with the requirement.

12                  (4) MINIMUM NUMBER OF PUBLIC MEETINGS  
13                  AND HEARINGS.—The Select Committee shall hold  
14                  not less than a total of 5 public meetings or public  
15                  hearings.

16                  (5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon written re-  
17                  quest of the Co-Chairpersons, a Federal agency, in-  
18                  cluding an agency in the legislative branch, shall  
19                  provide technical assistance to the Select Committee  
20                  in order for the Select Committee to carry out its  
21                  duties.

22                  (6) COORDINATION WITH STANDING COMMIT-  
23                  TEES OF THE SENATE.—The Select Committee  
24                  shall, in conducting official business, coordinate with  
25                  standing committees with relevant jurisdiction.

1                             (7) NO LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION.—The Se-  
2                             lect Committee shall not have legislative jurisdiction  
3                             and shall have no authority to take legislative action  
4                             on any bill or resolution.

5                             (f) REPORTING.—

6                             (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
7                             not later than July 31, 2020, the Select Committee  
8                             shall submit to the Senate and any relevant com-  
9                             mittee of the Senate a comprehensive report of the  
10                            results of its investigations and studies, together  
11                            with such detailed findings as it may determine ad-  
12                            visable.

13                            (2) SEPARATE REPORTS.—If the Select Com-  
14                             mittee is not able to agree to a report described in  
15                             paragraph (1) by a majority vote, each Co-Chair-  
16                             person may submit to the Senate and any relevant  
17                             committee of the Senate a report on behalf of the  
18                             members of the Select Committee appointed by the  
19                             Senate leader that appointed such Co-Chairperson  
20                             regarding the results of the investigations and stud-  
21                             ies of the Select Committee.

22                            (3) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days  
23                             after the date on which a report under this sub-  
24                             section is submitted, the Select Committee shall

- 1        make the report publicly available in widely acces-
- 2        sible formats.
- 3        (g) TERMINATION.—The Select Committee shall ter-
- 4        minate on October 1, 2020.

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